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Agawam's Hometown Newspaper

July 31, 1980

Police Contract Expected To Pass

Acting Town Manager Edward Caba, as ordered in July by Town Council, has located \$172,920 from the town's free cash account to implement the controversial patrolmen union's contract. The council will discuss the patrolmen's contract at Monday's meeting at the Cooper Street Library.

Provisions of the contract, signed by former Manager Peter Caputo in December, grants patrolmen a 7, 10, and 10 percent wage hike over a three-year period. Fringe benefits included incentive pay for college credits, roll call pay, and firearms qualification.

Council Being Unfair

The council defeated the contract in February but at their July meeting, Councilor Richard Theroux moved to accept the contract, saying that the upcoming arbitration between the union and town to settle the deadlocked dispute would result in the community paying unnecessary additional costs, i.e. arbiter's and lawyers' fees plus interest to the union.

Theroux also blamed his colleagues for holding the patrolmen's contract in limbo while other municipal contracts were passed without a single voice of opposition or request to review contract provisions with several unions that have received raises over the past several months.

An informal poll taken by The Advertiser News indicates that besides Theroux, Councilors Stephen Cincotta, Francis Colli, Frederick Nardi, Walter Kerr, Alfred Serra, and Donald Laduzenski support the patrolmen's contract.

Councilors Robert DeForge, John Bartnik, William Herd, and Council President Paul Fieldstad are expected to support the contract, although all said it was a reluctant vote which is aimed at protecting the town from incurring further expenses by an arbiter's decision favorable to the patrolmen.

Councilor Donald Rheault also is expected to voice a favorable vote. Rheault said he remains upset that the free cash account is being utilized to implement the contract.

Councilor Paul Paleologopolous remarked that he is currently "straddling the fence" and will wait until Monday's meeting before voting. Councilor Alfred Trehey remains opposed to the contract and councilwoman Elaine Bonavita at the July meeting said she would not issue a favorable vote unless the town establishes a police commission.

According to Caba, the transfer from the free cash account will implement the three-year contract retroactive to fiscal 79-80 and through the current fiscal year.

Angry At Caputo

Upon learning of the contract in January, several councilors were angered that Caputo had signed the contract before giving councilors the opportunity to inspect its provisions.

Councilors in opposition were also disquieted at the fringe benefits which have been called "lucrative" by such councilors as John Bartnik and William Herd.

At the July meeting, Caba flatly told the council after speaking with Town Attorney Lambert Ollari that the town has little chance of winning the arbitration because under the Town Charter, the manager is allowed to sign a contract, thus binding the community to abide by its provisions.

The majority of councilors polled agreed that once the new town manager is hired in September, the council will take firmer measures to ensure that the manager does not sign a contract before first allowing the council to review it.

Kerr says the intent of council involvement in municipal contracts is not to sit at the bargaining table but to be kept informed by the manager as negotiations proceed and then be given the opportunity to review contract provisions before the manager seals the process with his signature.

"I don't think it's wise for 15 councilors to be involved in the negotiating, but since we are the funding agent we should be allowed to know ahead of time what we're funding," remarked Kerr.

Paleologopolous agreed. He said that the council cannot take an active role in negotiations but at some point should be "able to see what we're funding."

Police, Continued on Page 2

Hide Behind Executive Session...

Councilors Irate Over Hebert Raise, Closed Vote

In recent weeks, town councilors have remained silent on the School Committee's \$3,000 merit raise granted to Superintendent of Schools Louis J. Hebert.

Eager To Respond

But last week's actions by the school board to appropriate an additional 6.5 percent raise to Hebert, setting his salary at \$40,842, a 15.2 percent increase in a 30 day period, leaves many councilors and Acting Town Manager Edward Caba irate and eager to break their previous silence.

Add that to the fact that school board members voted in executive session and have yet to officially record their vote for public review and one sees the councilors' ire increase. Board members Richard Borgatti, Roberta Doering, Thomas Ennis and Chairwoman Jessie Fuller voted for the raise and members Rosemary Sandlin and Walter Balboni cast dissenting votes.

Council President Paul Fieldstad offered the initial criticism: "The council really tried to cooperate with the School Committee this year. We cooperated on their budget and with the collaborative (Westover Occupational Resource Collaborative). I don't see in all honesty how they can justify that raise for the superintendent."

"I'm not saying he's not worth the money," continued Fieldstad, "but how does it look when the teachers are receiving just 5 percent?"

From Caba came this comment: "If we had known that the school board was going to grant Mr. Hebert the raise, there is no question in my mind that the council would have refused to support their budget over the tax cap," he added in reference to the overwhelming vote in favor of the school's 8.7 percent budget by the council.

According to councilors Walter Kerr and John Bartnik, the council's faith in the school board has eroded in recent weeks, especially after the closed door vote. Kerr says the board has violated the open meeting law and he will take a dim view on all future requests by the present board.

"I reluctantly voted for their budget after they made an effort to make some cuts," Kerr explained in referring to the School Committee's slash of some \$64,000 in their final budget. "They tell us if we keep them below the 4 percent they will reduce teachers and programs and now they turn around and do this."

Cannot Condone It

Bartnik, normally a moderate voice from Precinct Three, says he would immediately reverse his positive vote on the school budget and encourages taxpayers

here to refuse to condone the committee's recent behavior.

Another so-called moderate, Paul Paleologopolous, while admitting he is "impressed with Hebert" nonetheless charged the board "with getting away with many things in the past several years but then at election time, a low profile is maintained by the incumbents."

"Like us," remarked Paleologopolous, "the school committee has to answer to the voters for their actions."

Councilor Alfred Trehey accused the committee of giving Hebert "a friendship raise" in order to "play ball with committee members in the future." He, along with councilor Alfred Serra, agreed that the board has acted irresponsibly on the pay raise and by the executive session vote.

Trehey said, "I'd like to see the whole outfit wiped out," and Serra remarked, "We have no jurisdiction over the school committee, but I cannot see where they are holding the line."

Councilwoman Elaine Bonavita has recently made her feelings on the raise perfectly clear in concurrence with her colleagues. Council Vice-President William Herd, himself an educator and a liaison member between the council and school board, remarked, "The board has fiscal autonomy by law but some of its members practice fiscal irresponsibility by deed."

Only councilor Stephen Cincotta would not criticize the school committee's pay raise to Hebert. Cincotta says the council must first "get its own house in order before criticizing others." Another at-large councilor, Robert DeForge, also would not comment on the pay raise, saying he would first like to know the conditions the superintendent was hired under.

A hardliner from Precinct Three, councilor Donald Rheault, said as elected officials, the School Committee must not "hide behind the cloak of executive session." "The only reason I can think of for the closed vote was to hide the pay raise and release it when things have quieted down. Personally, I hope it stays hot for them because they're playing with fire."

Fieldstad commented that he did not blame the entire school committee for their recent actions, but warned that statements by certain members that the council should "mind its own business" could strain future relations between the two elected bodies. "I really don't think it's indicative of the entire committee," says Fieldstad.

Future Borg's Prepare For Tennis Tourney



Tennis instructor Tim Scanlon (center) gives the Morassi brothers Bob, right, and Mike some helpful tips before the Parks Department's upcoming youth tennis tournament slated for next week at the Shea's and Phelps tennis courts.

Police, Continued from page 1

The Precinct Five councilor said, at this time, the charter remains ambiguous on the council's powers in labor negotiations and he is awaiting a legal interpretation from Ollari. "So far I've seen nothing and nothing has changed in this respect," Paleologopolous says.

Herd charged that Caputo was a "lame duck manager" when he signed the contract in December. Caputo resigned from his post days later.

DeForge favors bringing in an outside consulting firm to establish guidelines on salaries that are fair to all unions and to the community.

Reservations About Fringes

According to DeForge, he has serious reservations about the patrolmen's fringe benefits but acknowledges that Caba's belief that the town has little chance of a favorable decision from the arbiter leaves the council with no choice but to fund the contract.

Rheault remains upset that the council is now in a position where it has to transfer funds from the free cash flow, an account he says should be applied to the tax rate to help reduce taxes.

"That money," remarked Rheault in reference to the transfer, "should have been budgeted in the police department's account. Who ever heard of not budgeting for anticipated salary increases. It just doesn't make sense."

To implement the contract Monday, ten votes, or two-thirds of the council is necessary. Patrolmen Union President Edward Borgatti and several union members are expected to attend.

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8 DANGER SIGNALS of Spinal Problems

The Following Critical Symptoms Could Mean Spinal (Back) Problems:

1. Pain in shoulders or arms or hands
2. Headaches, dizziness
3. Numbness in arms or legs
4. Low back pain, hip pain
5. Pain between shoulder blades
6. Neck aches
7. Joint-pain
8. Persistent fatigue

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Agawam High Band Invited To Peach Bowl

The Agawam High School Band has recently received an invitation to the 1980-81 World Music Conference being held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Conference is being presented by the National/International Music Festival Organization in conjunction with the Peach Bowl football game and parade on January 2, 1981. Attendance at this event is by invitation only and Agawam has been invited to attend because of their first place performance in Concert Band and Sight-Reading in the National Music Festival held in Atlantic City in 1976.

National/International Festivals have been held for the past five years in Orlando, San Jose, Denver, St. Louis, Chattanooga, Calgary and Toronto, and only the winning bands from these festivals have been invited to compete at the World Conference which highlights the fifth year jublies of their organization.

It is not known at this time whether it will be possible for the Agawam Band/Color Guard to attend this event with costs that would be more than double the amount usually spent on festival attendance in recent years. However, discussions with School Administration and the School Board will be held when further details are determined.

In addition to the Peach Bowl Parade and Football game on January 2nd, there will be various contests for concert and marching bands on Saturday and Sunday, January 3rd and 4th. World Conference Bands will also present the pre-game activities for the Peach Bowl which will be covered on national television by CBS.

Anthony Bonavita Backs Reform Schools

State Senate candidate Attorney Anthony C. Bonavita backs the instituting of reform schools so as to combat juvenile crime. Bonavita is challenging incumbent Alan D. Sisitsky in the September primary.

Bonavita stated, "For the past months, I have been discussing many problems with the voters of the second Hampden and Hampshire District. It is apparent that juvenile crime is high on the list of problems for our citizens and especially our elderly. People feel their homes and lives are open targets for vandalism, theft, and injury."

He continued, "But it is necessary to emphasize again one aspect of such changes which is the instituting of reform schools for serious offenders. The present system, I feel, is just not strong enough. The entire theory of the juvenile system must be changed and reform schools must be the ultimate final punishment."

Bonavita went on to explain, "While rehabilitation within reform schools should be the overall goal, respect for the law and fellow citizens must be co-equal with it. Our elderly deserve the protection that they have earned, and if elected, I will initiate legislation for reform schools."

MD Carnival Slated

A carnival to benefit research against Muscular Dystrophy will be held on Tuesday, August 5th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School parking lot on Main Street. Cheryl and Maria DeSpirt of Reed Street are co-chairmen of this event and will be aided by many of their friends and family.

In addition to games which may be played for prizes, there will be clowns, balloons, food, and Dominique's characters. Mary Turley of television Channel 40's *Morningtown* will paint clown faces.

Original drawings will be offered by Chris DeSpirt, 10-year-old Western Massachusetts MD poster child for 1980. Tickets for the games will be very inexpensive and many surprises are planned.

The proceeds of the event will be contributed to the fight against Muscular Dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases. Funds are used for research and patient services, many of the dollars allocated right here within Western Massachusetts. Scenes from this carnival are expected to be shown during the upcoming Jerry Lewis Telethon on Labor Day on Channel 40.

Raindate for the carnival is set for Wednesday, August 6th, from 11 to 3 o'clock.

Camp Rainbow Hosts Others

Camp Rainbow will finish its fourth week of the summer program this Friday with a day trip to Look Park in Florence, Massachusetts. Everyone is looking forward to hiking, boating, swimming, and picnicking on this trip.

Earlier this week, Camp Rainbow hosted two field days for other special needs camps from West Springfield and Westfield. Over 200 students and staff participated in games, races, contests, swimming, and a tug of war at Robinson Park School. Both days were wonderful opportunities for the students to meet friends and for the counselors to share ideas.

On Wednesday, some of the younger campers had a mid-morning brunch at McDonald's and, of course, we have held our regularly scheduled programs of instruction in music, arts and crafts, physical education and swimming.

The last two weeks of camp will be especially busy with trips and events including a canoe trip down the Connecticut River, a hayride at a local horse farm, a visit to the movies to see *Battlestar Galactica*, and our annual all-camp birthday party and show. Camp will end on August 15th.

Mailbox Vandalism On Increase

Agawam Postmaster Robert DeForge states that "vandalism to curblines boxes is on the increase and a problem many Postmasters face at one time or another." Besides causing frustration to customers, the senseless destruction disrupts service as well.

DeForge stated, "successful prosecution of vandals can help discourage such incidents, however, and make the public aware of the Federal laws protecting mail boxes and the consequences suffered by violators."

Though most prosecutions occur under a local ordinance, mail box vandalism is a felony under federal law and carries penalties ranging up to \$1000.00 fine and three years in jail.

Customers should be encouraged to notify both the local police and either the Postmaster or Postal Inspector if their mailbox is vandalized.

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Human Spirit Dignified In *Anne Frank*

by Chuck Kelley

The Mount Holyoke College Summer Theatre's production of *The Diary Of Anne Frank* creates a world in which the dignity, strength and endurance of the human spirit survive under the constant threat of death.

Anne, her father, mother, and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan and their son Peter, and a Mr. Dussel are the Jews who share a sanctuary in the attic of a warehouse in Amsterdam.

Jim Cavanaugh plays Mr. Frank, the man who serves as leader and patriarch for his family and friends. Cavanaugh gives a beautiful performance that is quietly sensitive and compassionate. He is the mediator, the one stable force in the cast of characters who gently interacts for the sake of all. When the Nazi's finally come to take them, Mr. Frank says, "The past two years we have lived in fear; now we can live in hope." It is no easy feat that Cavanaugh's performance nearly overshadows that of the little heroine's. It is all the more to his credit that he doesn't.

Anne, the girl who talks too much, laughs too much, the girl whose energy and vitality often rubs others the wrong way, is triumphantly played by Kathy Hiler. On opening night her performance was of the kind that would make you think she had been doing it for years, even though she is only old enough to be playing the part now. She plays her part naturally, happily giving her youth and energy to a girl who lives and grows under the most restrictive circumstances.

Even the mugging she puts on, especially in the first act, is forgivable and charming because, after all, she is only thirteen years old. She has a line somewhere in which she says she is about to run the guantlet. She does this, literally as an actress.

Other characters provide variety and nuances that reflect a microcosm of a larger world. Jeri Lynn Cohen gives Mrs. Frank the tension and lack of understanding that confuses Anne and forces to the gentle compassion of her father. Elisabeth Leader plays Margot, Anne's sister, with the right touch of understatement.

Michael Walker does well as Mr. Van Daan, a man who takes care of himself before those even of his own family. Victoria St. George, who is a skillful and versatile actress, plays Mrs. Van Daan, the lady who likes material things, battles with her husband and flirts with Mr. Frank. David Holt plays their son, Peter. He gives a fine performance as a boy who grows from a withdrawn twerp to a young man who learns to communicate and share his feelings with Anne.

Karen Krueger plays Miep and John Bachelder plays Mr. Kraler, the couple who serve as lifelines for those in hiding. And Jack Neary plays Mr. Dussel, the man whose personal habits and humor serve as foil to Anne.

The play was directed by Gloria Muzio Thayer. She has done a fine job by giving each character the proper amount of balance and by bringing out the essential spirit of the play.

The Diary Of Anne Frank is not a depressing play. It is about a variety of people whose will to survive will make you proud that you are a human being.

The play continues through Saturday night. Curtain is at 8:30 P.M.

The Rainmaker Shines At Berkshire Theatre

For those of us who revel in good ole fashioned humor from nostalgic western America, *The Rainmaker* now playing through August 3 at the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge is a most enjoyable evening.

Indeed, it's the rural setting and down-to-earth characters that help make this N. Richard Nash play click.

Yearn For Mellow Days

We hear many stories of people from the west yearning for those mellow days on the farm. Johnny Carson on many an evening can be heard relating stories of his boyhood days in Nebraska. Or how about the innocent "Radar" O'Riley of *MASH* fame, reliving happier times in Iowa.

It's this simple innocence and charm that director Stan Wojewodski Jr. has captured in *The Rainmaker*.

And the storyline remains simple and uncomplicated; Don't Be Afraid To Dream, life is too short, too precious.

For the Curry family, the problem that needs solving is two-fold; how to end a terrible summer drought that is strangling their farm and how to locate a husband for Lizzie, ambitiously portrayed by Mary Beth Hurt.

Unfortunately, both family traumas seem to be in the hands of a conniving, cheating con artist known as Starbuck, who explodes onto the set towards the end of Act One.

Starbuck, played by academy award winner Christopher Wilken (Nick in *The Deer Hunter*), attempts to convince the Curry's that he alone can summon the lightning to flash and the rains to pour from the heavens, all of course, for the cost of \$100.

Father H. C. Curry, a crusty but kind-hearted figure played by Moultrie Patten, seems more interested in Starbuck's ability to stir his daughter's inner passions and self-confidence than in the revelations of creating a cloud burst. So, despite objections from eldest son Noah, overplayed at times by Frederick Coffin, he agrees to Starbuck's timely offer.

As Lizzy, Miss Hurt has the audience feeling her pain of being unwanted and of being plain, which, by the way, she is plainly not.

Boyd Gaines is brother Jimmy, who unlike his sarcastic and overbearing older brother, offers the gallery a fine performance in sweet, unassuming innocence. Jimmy believes in Starbuck. Lizzy, although always saying Starbuck is a phony, becomes drawn to the tall and swaggering stranger.

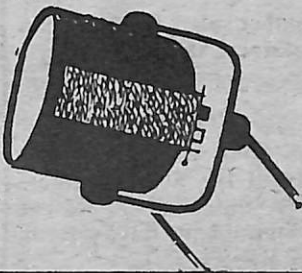
Mr. Wilken in the role of Starbuck turned in a sound performance though after the second intermission several theatre-goers seemed disappointed that the conniving con man failed to maintain the electricity of his opening act entrance.

Rolling In Aisles

The beer-bellied sheriff presented by Patrick Hanes had us rolling in the aisles with each sentence or waddling movement and by-the-book deputy Michael Gross as File was convincing and was never lost in the midst of several outstanding performances.

The revolving set, from quaint living room to sheriff's office to barn, nicely spiced the western flavoring. The steamy conditions on stage combined with the actors openly perspiring added to scenes when patience ran paper-thin and lives seemed uneventful and unimportant.

The Rainmaker is the third of four productions presented by The Berkshire Theatre Festival this summer. BTF, in rustic Stockbridge is easily reached by taking the Mass. Turnpike to the Lee exit and then proceeding on Route 102. It's just moments outside Stockbridge Center.



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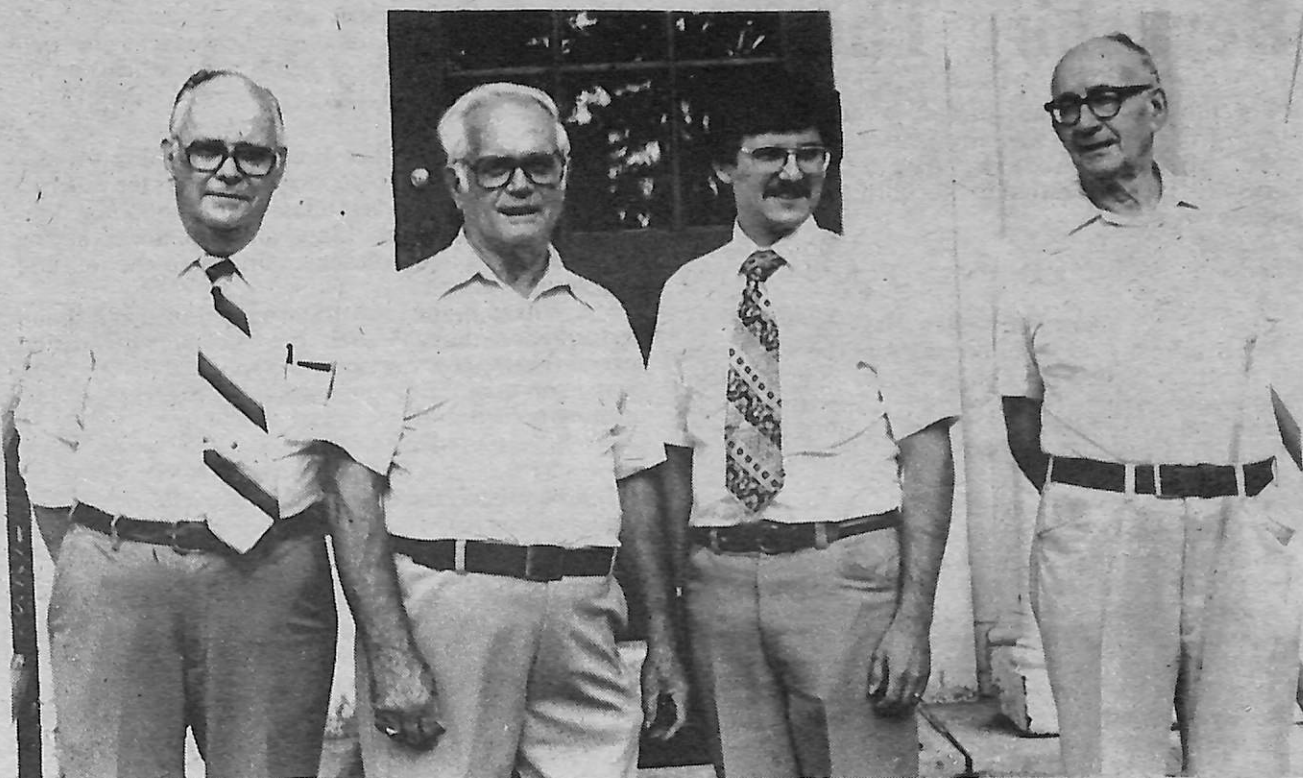
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SOCIAL



Newly-elected officers of the Elm Lodge of Masons Boosters Association are (left to right) Peter Meltzer, treasurer; Armand Daviau, president; Kenneth Lenz, vice-president; and Anthony Scalise, secretary. Photo by Jack Devine.

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Senior Center News

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8/5: Kielbasa, potato salad, fresh sliced tomatoes, cookies
8/6: Lamb patties, creamed cabbage, potato puffs, lemon jello
8/7: Ham-noodle casserole, cucumber salad, fresh peaches
8/8: Batterfry fish, shredded potatoes, stewed tomatoes, apple turnover.

Thanks to the facinating performance of David Skolnik of the "King Cobra" Self Defense School, we all had a most enjoyable 3rd anniversary party of the Senior Center. Special thanks to Joe Sullivan who never fails to present us at every party with a new, thoughtful and happy poem.
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Elm Boosters Elect New Officers

The Elm Boosters Association elected the following officers at their recent annual meeting: Armand E. Daviau, president; Kenneth Lenz, vice-president; Anthony Scalise, secretary; and Peter Meltzer, treasurer.

The newly-elected officers set in motion a new fundraising activity for the Elm Lodge of Masons Building Fund. The first event, planned for August 16th, is the annual clambake, one of the lodge's most popular events to be held at the Valley Community Church grounds beginning at 11 a.m.

Serving on committees for the clambake are Darmand Daviau as general chairman and Kenneth Lenz as assistant general chairman. Food preparation will be supervised by Lenz, assisted by Ronald Balboni, Peter Platonitis, Robert Gregg, Paul Noyes, David Strain, Al Longhi, and Chuck Cartello.

Sports activities will be handled by Stanley Chmielewski and Jack Chriscola; table arrangements by William Bessette and William Siber; publicity by Hal Stanton and Donald Fogg; and telephone chores by Carl Pringle, Henry Earl, Chet Butler, Bernie Sears, Paul Noyes, Stanley Svec, Larry Perkins, and Louie Bruen.

Tickets are available through Mr. Daviau and at Doug's Sunoco Station in Southwick, the Dairy Mart at 711 Main Street, Agawam, and at Salina & Sons Variety Store at 503 Union Street in West Springfield.

Deadline for tickets is August 10th. For more information, call 734-3872, 737-1262, 782-3090 or 734-1337.

UNICO Schedules Chicken Bar-be-que

Agawam UNICO will hold its 18th annual Chicken Bar-be-que Sunday, August 10, at the Polish Club pavilion, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. Continuous servings are planned between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. rain or shine.

The menu will consist of half chicken, native corn, garden tossed salad, french fries, bread, watermelon, coffee and refreshments. Take outs will be available -bring your own container.

President Thomas Cascio is honorary chairman and he has appointed Joseph Liberatore and Ben Deliso co-chairmen. Paul Ferrarini will handle publicity.

Tickets have been donated through the courtesy of Forastiere's Colonial Funeral Home and are reasonably priced at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12. They may be obtained by contacting members, by calling 786-5924 or 786-1859 or at the field on August 10th.

Proceeds will go for mental health, retarded children, scholarships and community charities. There will be the J and L Trio to provide music to entertain guests.

Reading Club To Meet

The summer reading club meets Wednesday, August 6th at the Agawam Public Library from 10:30 - 12 noon. The Walt Disney feature film "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" will be shown.

Grange To Meet

The next meeting of the Community Grange will be held Tuesday evening, August 5th.

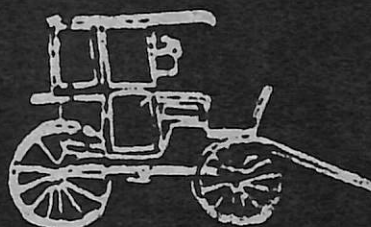
Elise Bradway has scheduled a mystery ride. All members interested in going are asked to meet at the Grange Hall at 6:15 P.M. Cars will be leaving at that time, so please be prompt. A telephone call to Mrs. Bradway, if you are going, would be much appreciated.

A business meeting will be held at the Grange Hall following the return from the ride.

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Local students who recently completed summer studies at the Ames Hill Center for Gifted Children display their diplomas at recent ceremonies. (Left to right) Jacinda Stone, Tamara Stone, Curtis Wu, Dr. Barbara Pilon, director of the school, Mark Nowacki, and Michael Jemiolo. (Front row) Kristen Wright and Tracey Hout. Photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Students Participate In Program At Ames Hill Center For Gifted Children

by Penny Stone

If a *stalemate* is a partner you've been married to for too long, what is a *zoochini*?

A bathing suit for animals, of course!

This is the kind of thinking that has helped inspire the creation of a new school for children who are gifted in the language arts. The Ames Hill Center for Gifted Children, Inc., located on the MacDuffie School for Girls campus in Springfield, is the first school of its kind in the country, and last Friday, seven Feeding Hills and Agawam children were among the "graduating" class of 65 summer students.

The program's director, Dr. A. Barbara Pilon, is a fulltime professor at Worcester State College, author of two books on children's poetry, and a recognized authority in the field of gifted children. She feels that the impetus to create this program for the gifted truly began when, as an elementary school teacher, she was asked to assist children believed to have some learning disabilities. She quickly discovered that many of these children who were "having problems with the curriculum" were exceptionally bright, unmotivated youngsters who were bored with school.

Consequently, the program at the Ames Hill Center was designed with three different R's in mind: Recognizing the child's creativity, Reinforcing his gifts, and Refueling them to encourage continual expansion of his abilities.

"If this stimulation and encouragement are not present, the child who is gifted may fail to come anywhere near his potential," states Dr. Pilon.

The school's first summer session ran on weekdays from July 7th to July 25th. Hours were from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and snacks were provided courtesy of a well-known ice cream corporation.

In addition to challenging English class, many options were offered to the children. These included Values Clarification, Future Studies, Improvisational Theatre, Adopt an Artist and Calligraphy, Introduction to Computers, Puppetry, Video Documentary, and

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Literary Magazine (for the school).

The closing day and award ceremonies featured a beautiful display of the students' artistic and literary skills, a diploma ceremony and a picnic lunch on the lawn afterward. The class bid farewell to the school with the simultaneous release of 65 helium-filled balloons, each one attached to a sample of the student's literary or artistic work.

The school is taking applications for their fall program which will begin Saturday, September 6th and run for 15 consecutive Saturdays until December 20th. The school hours will again be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children are eligible if they are between grades 2-8 or ages 7 to 14 and are gifted in language arts/reading. To determine eligibility, many different criteria may be examined, but generally the parent(s) and the school supply data and recommendations which form the basis of an individual assessment. Each child is looked at as an individual with unique factors surrounding his/her application.

How do you tell if your child is gifted? They should be insightful, have a good sense of humor, enjoy word play, be original, sensitive, and creative, be avid readers, and critical, analytical thinkers. An intelligence (IQ) of 130 or higher, achievement test scores two years beyond their present age level, and recommendations from language teachers may show them to be gifted.

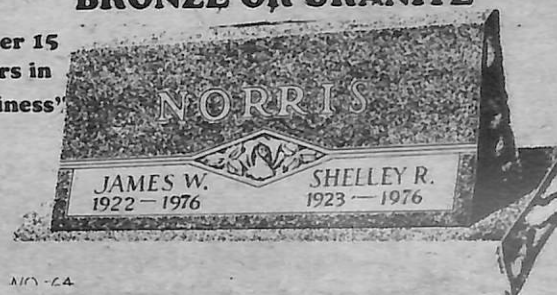
Anyone wishing to register their child or receive more information is urged to call or write to Dr. A. Barbara Pilon, Ames Hill Center for Gifted Children, Inc., Ames Hill Drive, Springfield, Mass. 01105. More Agawam and Feeding Hills students are encouraged to register.

As Dr. Pilon stated at the closing day's ceremonies, "These are our leaders of the future - our future artists, authors, statesmen. They are our best investment in the future."

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Chmielewski Says Public Vandalism Decreasing

Vandalism in the town's public parks and on school grounds has steadily declined in comparison with past summers, but house breaks and vandalism in the neighborhoods is on the upswing, the Advertiser/News today learned from Police Chief Stanley Chmielewski.

Chmielewski reported that the jump in crime on private property has dramatically increased monetary losses incurred by home and landowners from previous years. He noted that as of July 31, more than \$45,000 in damages has occurred on public and private grounds. He says the homeowner has taken the brunt of the summertime crime.

Big Jump From Last Summer

That figure, according to Chmielewski, dwarfs last summer's total estimate of \$20,000 in vandalism related crime, most of which occurred on town property.

Chmielewski attributed the crime shift partly to two ordinances passed by Town Council last summer aimed at dealing with escalating drinking and wanton acts of vandalism at several parks, most notably Shea's Field and Borgatti Park.

One ordinance bans all alcoholic beverages on town property and has aided police in disbanding the once familiar congregation of drinking youths at the parks.

Another ordinance allows police to enter private property as the landowner's agent to infiltrate groups of youths who have gathered to drink or use illegal drugs.

According to the chief, police now have a firm grip on the parks, many of which were notorious for annual summer "beer blasts." He said several problem areas, such as Feeding Hills Center and the High Street area of North Agawam have "cleaned up" because of the ordinances and new beat patrolmen Steven Draghetti, Richard Curry and James Orsatti.

"There is no question that between the beat patrolmen and the two ordinances, the parks and shopping center areas along with North Agawam have not created such a stir as they have in the past," Chmielewski commented.

Feeding Hills Areas

He pointed to several sporadic but severe outbreaks in the Red Fox and Clover Hill Drive areas of Feeding Hills as the classic examples of neighborhood troubles for police this summer. One youth gang which has since been apprehended, the chief remarked, was responsible for 40 housebreaks.

Chmielewski noted that many of the home-related incidents occur during daytime hours when townspeople are at work or away on holiday.

To combat vandalism and theft in neighborhoods, the police, through Officer Leonard Rising, implemented "The Neighborhood Crime Watch" program. By meeting with interested residents in neighborhoods not only beset by crime but those wishing to remain free of it, Rising, Chmielewski said, has formed neighborhood "eyes and ears" for the department.

He said 75 percent of all arrests has stemmed from the Crime Watch Program. "With our limited manpower we do the best we can patrolling the neighborhoods but right now, we're still keeping a close watch on the public grounds which in the past have been a rough thorn in our sides," Chmielewski stated.

Chmielewski blamed unemployment and the failure to incarcerate offending juveniles as reasons for neighborhoods being hit by the rash of thefts or destruction of private property.

Chmielewski offered this advice to homeowners, "I can only remind residents that if they see anything suspicious or see youths congregating in a place they shouldn't be to call us immediately. We're all in this together and we must cooperate to put a lid on it."

Editorial...

What Price Education?

When elected officials appropriate taxpayers dollars, these same taxpayers, the very people who charge our elected officials with upholding the public faith and trust, have the right to know how each individual official voted on that particular appropriation.

It seems that now the School Committee has violated that right by recently appropriating a pay raise in executive session for Superintendent of Schools Louis J. Hebert and then failing to release the names of those board members who voted in favor of the raise.

Although their attorney, John Teahan, seems to believe that conducting a vote in closed session is legal, we cannot condone such action by our elected officials.

The closed door vote, now resembling a clandestine meeting, gave Hebert a 6.5 percent pay hike for the current fiscal year. That adjusted his salary from \$38,350 to \$40,842. Business Manager James Coon, in the same closed door meeting, likewise was granted a 6.5 percent wage increase. Coon's salary now is set at \$27,140 from \$25,484.

Unofficially, but widely known, Committee Chairwoman Jessie Fuller and members Richard Borgatti, Roberta Doering, and Thomas Ennis voted for the pay hikes. Members Walter Balboni and Rosemary Sandlin, as promised prior to the meeting, would not go along with the pay increases.

If members in the majority feel justified in their action, and, indeed, believe it was in the best interest of the school department and the community-at-large, why all the secrecy?

In the past several weeks we have strongly opposed another raise for Hebert. Last month by a 6-1 vote, the committee granted Hebert a \$3,000 merit raise despite the fact the superintendent had been in the community only for six months.

It's true that Hebert's contract includes a clause which mandated a six-month evaluation of his performance by the board which would be adjusted to the salary if he received high marks from board members.

He did. But nowhere in the contract does it say the merit raise be \$3,000 or that a 6.5 percent increase be topped onto his first raise. That makes two raises in a 30-day period despite the fact that several board members test the public's intelligence by stating that the two raises came in separate budget years. We don't buy that either.

All along, we supported a 5 percent raise for both Coon and Assistant Superintendent James Bruno to stay consistent with the 5 percent raises given to the Agawam Education Association last fall for a three-year period.

Although 6.5 percent for Coon and Bruno was somewhat higher than we supported, at least it concurred with raises granted many other municipal unions. Hebert's overall 30 days raise is 15.2 percent. How can the board justify that? And, as the teacher's union said last week, they supported the administrative raises but expect their next bargaining session with the School Committee to bring additional fruits for their labors.

Another angle of this affair warrants further comment. In January of 1981 Hebert is again scheduled for another six month evaluation to be followed by a third six-month evaluation in July of the same year. The contract mandates the evaluation. But can the committee be justified in two more raises if his job performance is good? That makes four raises in one year. What price education?

As for the School Committee's actions not only in granting two raises to the superintendent, but holding the vote in closed session, the taxpayers, their constituents, deserve some answers, and soon.

The special attention focused on the playgrounds and schools has paid off in that only recent window breakings at Peirce and Robinson Park Elementary Schools has blackmarked the department's intense efforts to alleviate the yearly destruction on public grounds.

Shea's A Haven

Shea's Field, a favorite playpen for young vandals, has suffered only light damage as compared to previous summers when Parks Department crews as daily rituals would repair the commonplace vandalism of the park.

Several mini-parks, such as Wade Park in Feeding Hills, have warranted additional attention recently because youth gangs are reportedly creating problems for residents in the Brady Village housing project.

"It's the same thing every summer; the police have to be on their toes. Activity has really increased, especially in juvenile crime so we have to focus our efforts in keeping those few troublemakers at bay," he added.

Would you like to be a Guest Editor for the Agawam Advertiser/News? We invite merchants, politicians, educators, town employees, and interested private citizens or groups who would like to express their opinions on any particular subject to call us at 786-7747. Let's get it off your mind and into print! We reserve the right to accept or reject any material submitted.

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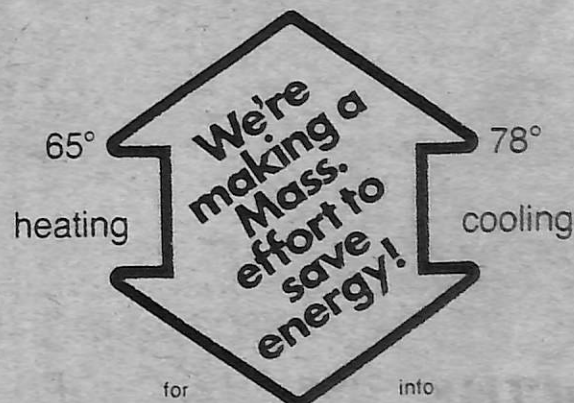
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A Dollar Buys A Lot Here In Agawam

by Penny Stone

Where can Agawam's children find a summer filled with opportunities for fun, learning and friendship for only one dollar??? Thanks to our Parks and Recreation Department, at seven of our community playgrounds.

The 1980 Summer Playground Program, presently in its fifth week of operation, is still going strong. According to Phil Vecchiarelli, summer director, "The goals of the program are to fill the youths' leisure time while exposing him to activities that will develop skills, character and physical abilities."

Back in June, 700 children aged 6 to 15 registered for the summer playground program and 100 pre-schoolers aged 3½ to 5 were registered for the pre-school playground program. These children have been meeting daily (weather permitting) at one of seven parks or playgrounds in Feeding Hills or Agawam. Under the direct supervision of at least two counselors, they have been involved in many new games and sports, arts and crafts, music and drama activities, tournaments and special events.

The summer program differs from the structure of school in that it lets the kids suggest the ideas and follow them through. "We're always available for assistance when and if they need help, but it's their program," explains Phil.

In fact, each playground seems to have a "personality" all its own, depending upon the age groups involved. Some would love to have a story hour activity; others would not be at all interested. And some have more spirit of rivalry than others. Wade Park and Shea's Field groups, for example, seem to have developed quite a competitive sidlight to their weekly activities. Last week's impromptu "balloon bath" between groups really cooled off the day as participants were drenched by water-filled balloons, trying to "best" one another.

Other activities include inter-playground softball games which generate much enthusiasm, trips to the movies, the ice cream stand, or the State Pool. In fact, some playgrounds take an average of two trips to the pool each week to cool off. Each group plans and decides where to go, gets approval from the director, and must leave a counselor at the playground if any children wish to stay behind.

In addition to the flexible daily programming, a weekly trip is scheduled for all seven playgrounds. A recent trip to Northampton's Look Park allowed the children to swim, ride the swan boats and train, and picnic together. A Saturday trip to Fenway Park in Boston afforded the chance for many to see the Red Sox play the Minnesota Twins for \$6 inclusive. Last week's trip to Mountain Park, where the children rode nearly all the rides, cost a mere \$1.00 for the bus and \$2.25 for the

rides. This week's trip seems to be an all-time favorite, the beach at Rocky Neck in Niantic, Connecticut. A fee of \$4 is kept at a minimum to allow as many as possible to attend.

Though he's never lost a child on one of these trips, Phil would like to offer special T-shirts at registration for the children to wear especially on field trips to help identify them as part of the Agawam playground program. All counselors presently must wear Parks and Recreation shirts on these trips.

In addition to being eligible for all of the above, the same \$1.00 registration fee entitles each child to make two craft articles per week without cost. These might include a nerf airplane, a 3-D poster, puzzle, magnetic mouse, leather items, and, of course, the potholder. Children who wish to make more than two craft items weekly are asked to pay a very nominal fee for materials.

The Arts and Crafts van travels from playground to playground and is under the direction of Dori Chmielewski Parisien, who is assisted by four college students. They are busier at some playgrounds than at others, but at all of them, the children come running to make something to bring home. To some, this is the favorite event of the weekly program.

The Pre-school Playground Program, for children 3½ to 5 years, meets for somewhat shorter hours and is divided into half day sessions, four days a week. Here the activities include low organizational games, stories, apparatus play, arts and crafts, and special events.

Lynn Wysocki, preschool counselor, feels that the program "offers this age group the opportunity of being with other children their age and learning how to

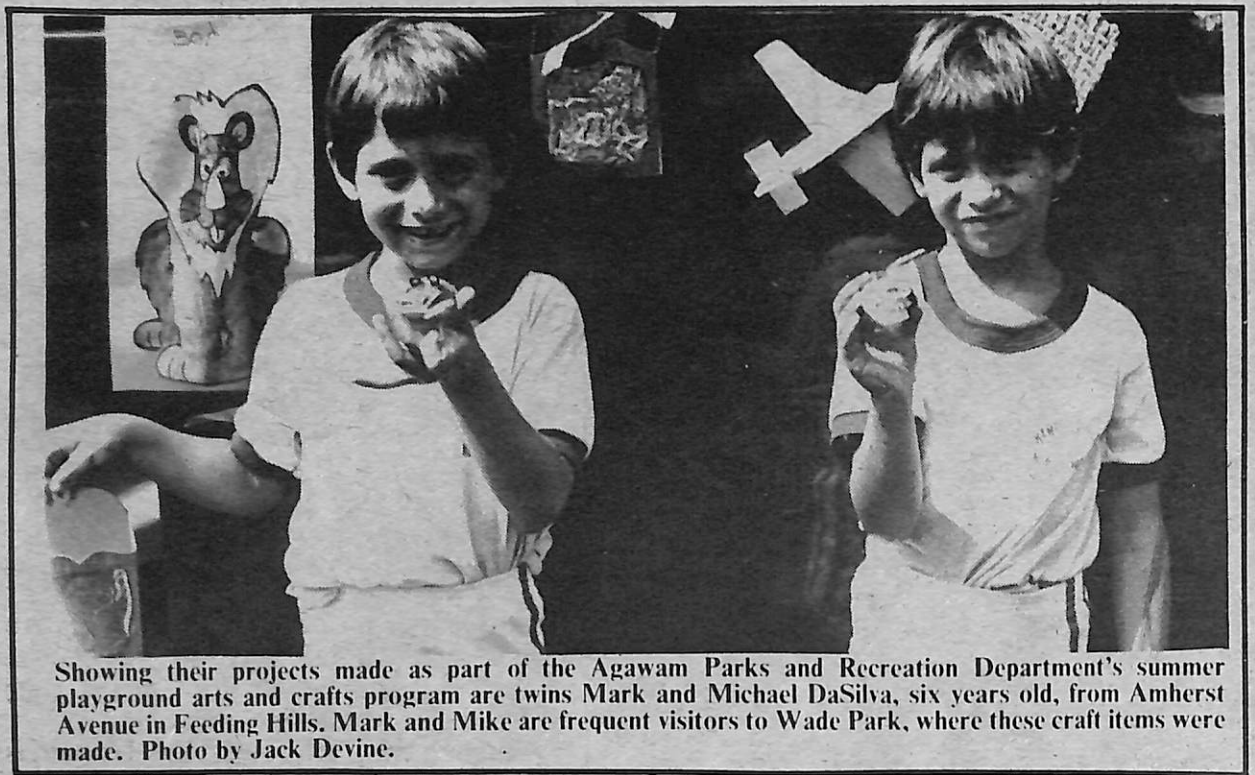
play cooperatively with one another."

The sessions meet twice weekly and the children make a craft, work puzzles, or may go to the pool for part of the time. "But mostly we feel it's important to let the kids move about freely and do what they want," says Lynn. "We don't interfere unless we're needed. They're learning a lot about getting along."

The playground counselors are all college students who work well with kids. They are between the ages of 18 and 22 and are, according to Phil, "a very bright, talented group who did well in high school, are doing well in college, and have a lot to offer the youth in this type of program - sports experience is only one aspect." Phil, a senior in college, has been a counselor for two years and is serving his second year as overall director.

The Summer Playground Program will come to a close on August 15th, but not before the annual Field Day and Carnival takes place. On Wednesday, August 13th, at Shea's Field all playgrounds will meet for a full day of fun. The Lions Club furnishes hot dogs, chips, soda, ice cream sandwiches, etc. for those registered. The Field Day activities and Penny Carnival will feature all kinds of games and contests, including wheelbarrow races, balloon contests, bubble gum blowing contests, relays, pie eating contests, etc. Proceeds from this event will go to Muscular Dystrophy research and treatment. Last year's carnival raised \$100 for MD.

Phil envisions the playground program developing into a summer camp set-up, but feels that this is financially unrealistic in the near future. And while this may be true, taxpayers seem to be getting a good deal for their money with the playground program here in Agawam.



Showing their projects made as part of the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department's summer playground arts and crafts program are twins Mark and Michael DaSilva, six years old, from Amherst Avenue in Feeding Hills. Mark and Mike are frequent visitors to Wade Park, where these craft items were made. Photo by Jack Devine.

Kazantis Receives Scholarship

American Legion Post 277, Indian Orchard, will present one of six scholarships for \$100 to Christopher Kazantis of 4 Trinity Terrace, Agawam. The presentations will be made at post installation ceremonies on Saturday, September 13.

Kazantis will attend the University of Massachusetts this fall.

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SPORTS

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Winners of the Agawam Athletic Association's 8-10 Division pose for their fans. (Left to right, back row) Assistant Coach Art Serra, Ronnie Geida, John Polidori, Jeff Retzler, Michael Williams, Marc Barber, and Coach Dan Czepl. Front row, Kevin Cooling, Mike Gravel, Denis Punch, Bobby Morassi. Missing when picture was taken were Tony Piazza and Marc Paskowsky.

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SHAA Boys 9-10 Highlights

STANDINGS
(as of July 25)

Elks Royals 14-1
UNICO Yankees 11-5
Westfield Savings Bank Red Sox 8-6
Feeding Hills Hardware Reds 7-7
Feeney Floor Covering Dodgers 6-10
Waniewski Farms Astros 5-10
Pioneer Valley Auto Parts Tigers 2-12

In a game on July 22nd, the Royals beat the Yankees 16 to 13 with hitting power for the Royals supplied by Bobby Mesick, Jason Osborn, Gary Goulet Kevin Camyre, Robby Matthews, and Mark Sohan. Eric Satkowski got his first hit of the season, driving in a run. Kevin Camyre pitched a good game with nine strikeouts. For the Yanks, Mike Gasteyer, Tom King, Keith Leal, Jamie Bartnik, Steve Silva, Mike Passerini, and B.J. Massola led the offense with some terrific hitting. Scott Cavallo, Gasteyer, and Passerini all aided superbly on defense in a game where all of the team played their hearts out.

On July 23, the Red Sox took the Reds 2 to 0 with Sox pitcher Paul Poole going for a shut out with seven strikeouts. Eric Burnett, Jim Laudato, Chris Ollari, and Danny Champigny were offensive stars, while Joe Schaffer made an excellent catch in left field and Jim Laudato made a double play unassisted.

The Sox again took the game on July 25 when they beat the Dodgers 3 to 1. Tim Duclos, Tom Smith, and Joe Schaffer were offensive aids and Chris Ollari, Dave Ziegert, Jim Laudato, and Paul Bourdeau led the good

Evans Takes 7th Riverside Win

by Larry Bouchard

Last Saturday night at the Riverside Park Speedway, Richie Evans made it win number seven for the season and took over the point lead for the park championship.

Evans, who had to fight his way up through the pack, took command at the halfway mark. Mike Stefanik applied pressure to Evans, but could not motor by him. At the conclusion of the race, it was Evans, Stefanik and Bob Palverarie.

The fans were treated to a special event when the New England Mini-Modifieds put on a show. These cars which resemble the big modifieds, but have four cylinder motors and small tires, provided the crowd with much excitement.

This Saturday will be the Winston 100 at Riverside Speedway. Starting time is 7:30 p.m. sharp followed by the figure eight cars. Support racing and enjoy the fun.

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\$17,000 Purse Set For Stafford's Winston 100

On Friday night, August 8th, the Stafford Motor Speedway will present the 8th Annual Winston 100. Ed Yerrington, promoter of the half mile oval Connecticut speedway has posted a \$17,000 payoff for this NASCAR special event.

The NASCAR modifieds and the street stocks of the Winston Racing Series will team up for an exciting night of great stock car racing.

The "Mod Squad" will run 100 laps while the street stocks have a 20 lap feature. Both events will offer double points towards the Stafford Winston Racing Series Championship and the NASCAR Modified title.

NASCAR National Modified Champion Richie Evans of Rome, New York, is the defending Winston 100 winner, and the driver of the B.R. DeWitt Pinto is leading the national standings as well as the Stafford Winston Racing Series chase. Another victory could just about wrap up the Stafford title.

Other former winners of the Winston 100 include Geoff Bodine, 1978, 1977, and 1976. George "Moose" Hewitt made the 1975 Winston 100 his biggest victory ever. Carl "Bugs" Stevens, the all time top feature winner here won the 1974 and 1973 Winston 100.

The Winston Racing Series is the most competitive stock car series in the country with over sixty tracks participating.

As part of their program, the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company presents \$1000 and a custom Bell helmet to each Winston Racing Series Champion. Additional money (\$500) is paid to the second place and \$250 to the third place point-getters.

Make plans now to be a part of the 8th annual Winston 100 on Friday, August 8th at the Stafford Motor Speedway. Race time is 8 p.m. and tickets are on sale at the speedway office Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are also on sale each race night.

For more information, call the speedway office at (203) 684-2783 or write P.O. Box 105 Stafford Springs, CT 06076.



'Sportsman Corner

By Bill Chiba

People who hunted and fished last year spent a record \$373 million on licenses, tags, permits and stamps according to the Department of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Total income from license sales of all kinds was \$29 million over fiscal year 1978 totals and included \$199 million for hunting licenses (up \$14 million over 1978) and \$174 million for fishing licenses (up \$15 million from 1978).

Massachusetts benefitted by the general increase in fishing and hunting and monies received. Mass. sold 217,690 resident fishing licenses and 5,302 non-resident licenses for a gross cash receipt to the Fish and Wildlife Division of \$1,546,204.05.

The hunting license sales were up also. Mass. had a total of paid hunting license holders of 110,931. There was a sale of resident hunting licenses, tags, permits and stamps of 169,999 and a non-resident issue of 2,250 for a total of 172,249. The Fish and Wildlife Div. received \$960,782.55.

Vermont sold 37,923 non-resident hunting licenses last year and received overall into its treasury \$1,803,579 from the hunters, residents and non-residents.

For you fishermen that are looking for some action this time of year, besides ground fishing off the coast, go to New Hampshire's coast for the fall spawning migration to the streams of Great Bay. The fish gather in mid-July before hitting the rivers.

The two best areas for catching coho in July and August are the ocean in the vicinity of the mouth of the Piscataqua River. It is recommended that you troll lures that resemble a herring. Favorite colors seem to be blue and white or purple and white. Proven lures include no. 9 and 11 floating RApalas, Flatfish from size X through size L and 4 to 6 inch Silver Spoon. Trolling at various depths can be achieved with a Pink Lady trolling plane, downriggers, sinkers, or lead core line. It is also suggested that you run one lure directly in the prop wash of your motor, no more than 10 feet behind the boat. In addition to cohos, you may occasionally take pollack, blues, cod, mackerel, and stripers.

The second recommended area is Pepperal Cove in the lower part of the Piscataqua River. It is suggested that you anchor your boat in 25 to 60 feet of water. Fish a strip of mackerel 1-inch wide, 1/8 inch thick and 3 to 4 inches long on a no. 2 or 4 straight, sharp hook. Use as little weight as possible, one half ounce is usually good. Fish as many lines as you can manage. Fish in 10 to 20 feet of water (you are anchored in 25 to 60 feet). Although fish may be taken anytime, daybreak with an outgoing tide may be best. Fish seem to go upriver to feed during the incoming tide and drop back into the cove during the outgoing tide.

A New Hampshire fishing license is required and only two coho may be taken per day with a minimum length of 15 inches each.

For updated salmon information, you can call Salmon Unlimited's hotline (603)436-6602.

Markowski Sets Up Practice

Eugene Markowski, Jr., received a BS degree from DMD announces that he Springfield College. Cum will be joining Agawam Laude, and graduated Dental Associates, 532 from Wilbraham and Springfield Street, Monson Academy. Feeding Hills.

Dr. Markowski is a recent Cum Laude graduate joining Susan M. Plourde of Tufts University School DMD for the practice of Dental Medicine. He general dentistry.

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Agawam Youth Center Highlights

Many AYC members are looking for work doing your odd jobs - yard work, small repairs, babysitting, house cleaning, etc. If you would like some hard working help and would like a to help a kid learn to earn, contact Karen.

AYC offers members the chance to talk to someone about life, love, loneliness or lack of something to do. Karen is available for meetings about problems with family, friends, dating and drugs as well as just conversation. All is confidential.

S & H green stamps are being collected towards a goal of 202 books to acquire three 35mm cameras, a slide projector and a screen. These items are desperately needed in order to continue the photography workshops which have become very popular and to enable the center to present public shows. Any amount of stamps are acceptable and a deadline date of September 10th has been set.

Movie fans interested in screening films for AYC members are now forming a film committee to choose films from among hundreds available. Contact Karen if interested.

The AYC biked to Bullrocks in Westfield, a natural swimming pool on a branch of the Westfield River. The 26-mile trek was completed on a variety of bicycles including one-speeds and ten-speeds. Swimming was part of the fun along with a demonstration of saving a drowning victim. Picnicking and exploring for geological specimens also was enjoyed.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Aug. 1: Outdoor Theatre 9:45 to 1:00 p.m.; Gymnastics/Jogging workshop 2-4:30 p.m.

Aug. 3: Beach trip 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Aug. 6: Caving trip pre. 1 to 2 p.m.

Aug. 7: Jug End Caves trip 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Silkscreening T-shirts 1-4 p.m.

Aug. 10: Climbing trip 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SENIORS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Aug. 1: Connecticut River Canoe trip prep. 1-4 p.m.

Gymnastics/Jogging workshop 2-4:30 p.m.

Aug. 2: Conn. River canoe trip (3 days, 2 nights)

Aug. 3: Beach trip 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Aug. 5: Canoe trip with Camp Rainbow 9:30 to 3:30

Aug. 6: Equipment repair workshop 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Aug. 7: Maria Muldar concert in Hartford 6:30-11 p.m.; Silkscreening T-shirts 1-4 p.m.

Aug. 8: Knots Climb workshop 2-4:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 4-6

Park Dept. Tennis
Tournament
Ages 10-17
Shea's and Phelps

Tuesday, Aug. 5

M D Carnival
Middle School
11 A.M.-3 P.M.

Wednesday, Aug. 6
Public Library
Summer Reading Club

10:30 A.M.-Noon

August 10th

Aga. UNICO
Chicken Bar-be-que
Polish American Club
1-5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 16

Masonic Temple
Clambake
Valley Community
Church
11 A.M.



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Rollaway Dance Team Makes National Competition

Alfred Percope and Monica Scavotto, members of the F.A. Maiolo Figure and Dance Club at the Rollaway, Inc., Agawam, won the silver medal in Novice Dance at the Northeast Regional Roller Skating Championships, held in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

The championships were held July 4-9 and involved competitors from New England and New York. Competition was held in dance, figures, and freestyle.

The winners of the gold, silver and bronze medals in each division are eligible to skate in the national roller-skating championships which be held July 26 - August 3 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Percope, a resident of Yallesville, Conn., also won the bronze medal in classic men's figures. In 1979 he placed 4th in this division at the national championships held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Miss Scavotto, an Enfield, Conn., resident won the gold medal in intermediate ladies' figures. Both Mr. Percope and Miss Scavotto have been skating for about fifteen years and are students of Miss Sylvia Haffke and Mr. Fred Poisson.

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Altobelli Questions Legislators' Donations

Rudy Altobelli, candidate for state representative in the Third Hampden District, questions the motivation of legislators who have now decided to give their pay raises to charities. According to Altobelli, it may be coincidence, but he has noticed that the legislators who are doing this have political contests in this fall's elections.

Altobelli says what these legislators are doing is taking the taxpayers' money and donating it to charities of their own choices. He feels that the biggest charitable organization in our country is the American taxpayers. To take their money and donate it to another charity is morally and ethically wrong, according to him.

Altobelli explains that these legislators had the opportunity to notify the state treasurer last year not to include the pay raise in their pay. Many of our legislators did do that, but the other legislators who are now faced with political contest in their districts have, according to Altobelli, now become altruistic with the taxpayers' money.

Parks & Rec Sponsors Tennis Tournament

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor its annual tennis tournaments for adults and youths during the early part of August.

On August 4th, 5th, and 6th, boys and girls in the age groups of 10 and under, 14 and under, and 17 and under will compete. Those interested should sign up at either Shea's Field or Phelps School courts or call 786-0400, ext. 233 or 234.

On August 9th and 10th, adults will compete in the classifications of men's singles and doubles, women's singles, and mixed doubles. To enter, call 786-0400, ext. 233 or 234 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Leave your name and telephone number. One can of balls is needed.

Connelly, Sisitsky Vote For Reform Bills

In the final flurry of activity leading to adjournment on July 5th, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted a majority of reform proposals aimed at ending waste and corruption in the awarding of state contracts. Local members of the Legislature, Representative Edward Connelly and Senator Alan Sisitsky both voted in favor of the Reform bills.

The reform package was drafted by the Special Commission on State and County Buildings and contained four basic elements: creation of an independent Office of Inspector General to ferret out fraud and waste in the expenditure of public funds; reform of the state's system of awarding and managing construction contracts; establishment of criminal penalties for certain corrupt activities; and reform of the campaign finance laws, including partial public financing of state elections. All but the fourth proposal were passed and sent on to the Governor for his signature.

The Commission's recommendations were the subject of heated debate during several floor fights in the House and Senate over the last few months of the legislative session. During that time, the Special Commission was holding public hearings at the State House on cases of corruption in the awarding of state building contracts. Commission supporters pointed to revelations of bribery and political favoritism as strong evidence of the need for reforms and charged the legislative leadership with trying to stall progress of the bills until the session adjourned. In turn, the leadership claimed that the Commission's bills were complex and required close study and corrective amendments. June 4th, reformers pushed through a resolution in the House (132-20), pledging not to adjourn until the Commission's entire package was acted on by both the Legislature and the Governor. In the exhaustive, marathon final session - with three of the four bills enacted - 44 House members stood by the resolution and voted against final adjournment (prorogation). However, this was not enough to stop prorogation and the Commission's public financing proposal died in Election Laws Committee.

Common Cause, who made the Commission's proposals its top priority in this session, praised the Legislature for passage of three bills. Common Cause Chairwoman Joan Austin said, "The House and Senate deserve credit for enactment of the Commission's proposals. It is only through such major reforms that the problems of waste and corruption in state spending can seriously be addressed. Next year, we will look to the Legislature to complete the unfinished reform efforts begun in this session by passage of partial public financing of statewide and legislative elections."

Sisitsky did not vote on the Inspector General bill and was absent but recorded as voting in favor of the State Contracts Reform Bill.

Connelly voted in favor of the Inspector General and State Contracts Reform Bills. He also voted in favor of the resolution to remain in session but later voted for the final adjournment motion.



Philip Clevesey



Albert Beaumier



John Odierna



Joseph Pacella

New Law Firm Formed

Attorneys Joseph A. Pacella, John A. Odierna and Albert J. Beaumier announce the formation of a partnership for the general practice of law, combining their respective specialties and talents in order to provide total legal services to the community and their clients.

The firm to be known as PACELLA, ODIERNA & BEAUMIER has its offices at 73 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Attorney Pacella is the holder of a degree of Juris Doctor with honors from Western New England College Law School where he was the recipient of an honor scholarship and awards in Taxation, Future Interests, and Trusts. He received his Bachelor's of Art degree from Fordham University, New York, N.Y.

He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Attorney Pacella is a member of the Hampden County Bar Association, the Hampden County Bar Advocates, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

A lifelong resident of the area, Attorney Odierna is a graduate of Classical High School, Springfield College, and Suffolk University Law School where he graduated at the top of his class. He was most recently engaged in the practice of law at 321 Park Street, West Springfield.

An Army veteran with an honorable discharge, Attorney Odierna served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1969-1973. During his service in the Republic of Korea, he was awarded a certificate of admission to the Bar of the Republic of Korea by the Korean Minister of Justice.

In addition to his membership in the Massachusetts and Hampden County Bar Associations, Attorney Odierna is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the United States District Courts for the Districts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, the United States Court of Claims and the United States Court of Military Appeals. In addition, he is also a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Albert J. Beaumier of Wilbraham, is a lifelong resident of this area and has practiced law in Springfield for over five years. He is a graduate of West Springfield High School, American International College, and Tulane University School of Law. In addition to his membership in the Massachusetts and Hampden County Bar Associations, Attorney Beaumier is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. His practice is concentrated in the area of commercial, business and bankruptcy law.

Attorney Phillip R. Clevesey is pleased to announce his association with the Springfield Law firm of Pacella, Odierna & Beaumier, P.A., with offices at 73 State Street, Suite 205, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Attorney Clevesey, a decorated Viet Nam veteran, has been in the general practice of law following his receiving the Juris Doctor degree from Western New England College School of Law in 1977. He was admitted to practice before the Massachusetts Bar and the Federal Bar for the District of Massachusetts.

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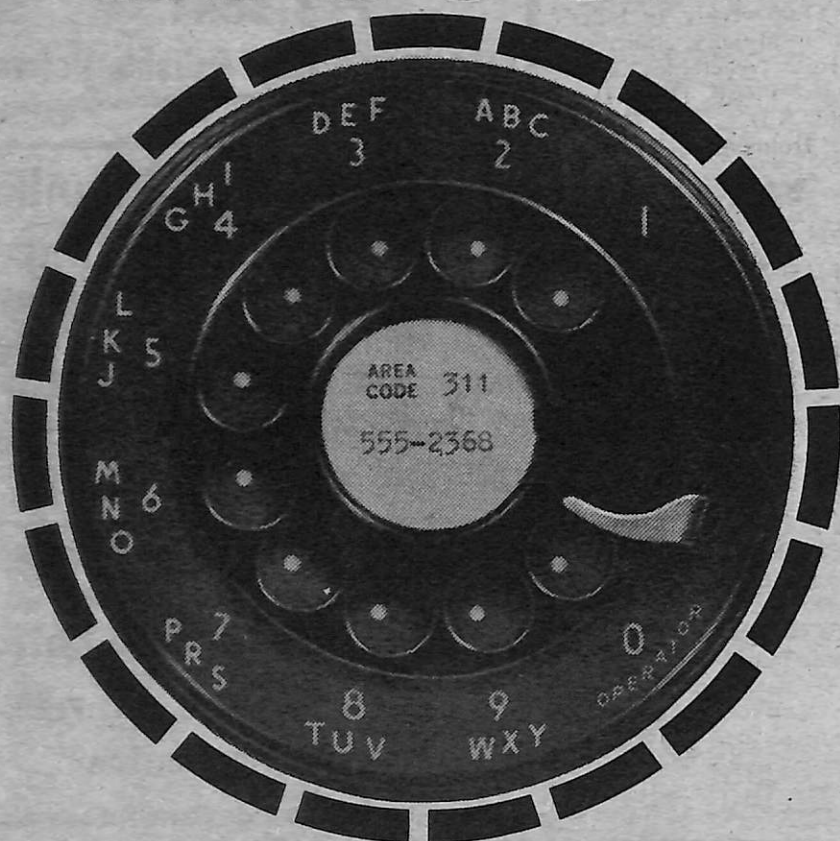
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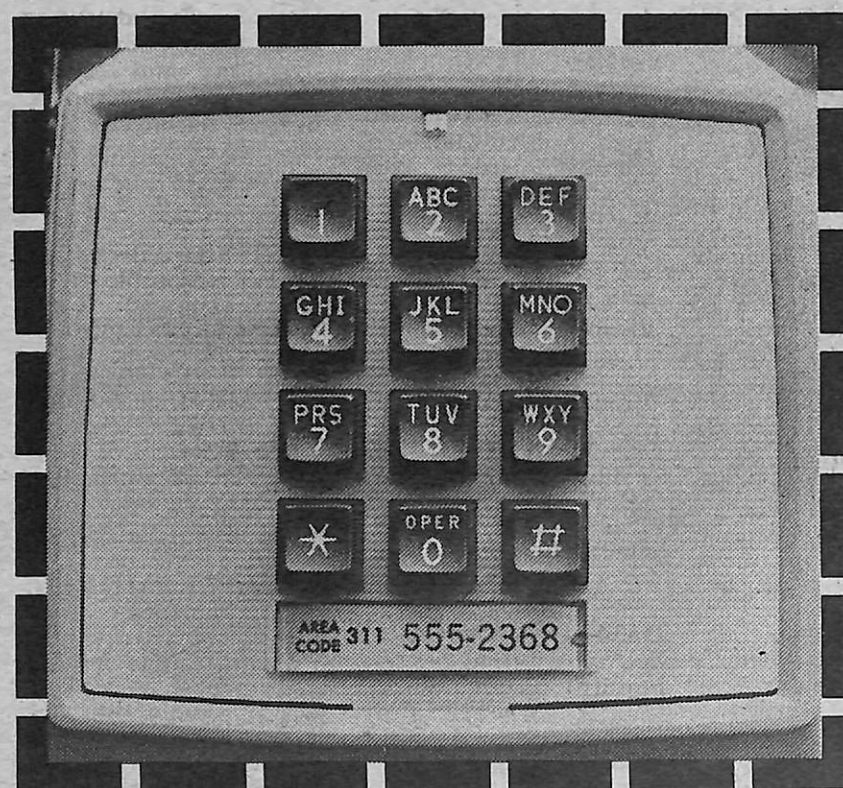
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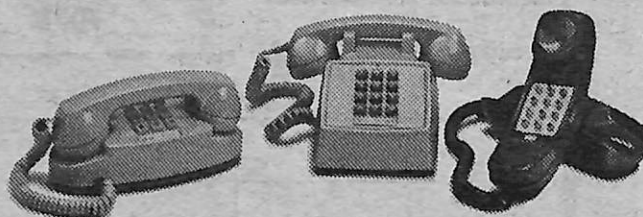
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